

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (Currently Amended): An articulated sled comprising:  
2 a first body segment and a second body segment, each of the first body segment  
3 and the second body segment being interconnected by a flexible connector so that the  
4 first body segment and the second body segment can rotate with respect to each other  
5 about a first axis; and  
6 a pair of runners on the first body segment and a pair of runners on the second  
7 body segment each runner of each pair of runners including a sliding surface with oppos-  
8 ing convex edges that extend lengthwise from a leading end to a trailing end, wherein  
9 each of the opposing convex edges in each of the pair of runners, respectively, have a  
10 wider widthwise spacing apart between each of the opposing convex edges in a central  
11 lengthwise region than the widthwise spacing apart at the leading end and the trailing  
12 end.
- 1 2. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein each runner includes a sloping  
2 leading end and a trailing end that each extend upwardly from the sliding surface, and  
3 wherein each leading end is sloped upwardly at a shallower angle, than an angle of slope  
4 of each trailing end.
- 1 3. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of the first body segment and  
2 the second body segment includes a connector slot that receives therein a conforming end  
3 of the flexible connector.
- 1 4. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 3 wherein the first body segment comprises a  
2 front body segment having a raised end for deflecting snow, and including, adjacent the  
3 raised end, a pair of hand grips.

- 1 5. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 4 wherein the hand grips comprise T-shaped  
2 hand grips.
- 1 6. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 3 wherein a front end of at least the second  
2 body segment includes a fixedly mounted end of the flexible connector therein having a  
3 projecting opposing connector end that is adapted to removably interconnect to the con-  
4 nector slot formed in the rear end of the first segment.
- 1 7. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein the flexible connector is con-  
2 structed and arranged to enable flexure along each of two perpendicular axes, the axes  
3 including a yaw axis and a roll axis with respect to a longitudinal line taken through a  
4 center of the sled.
- 1 8. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 7 wherein the flexible connector comprises a  
2 pair of opposing connector ends and a web section extending between the connector ends,  
3 the web section constructed and arranged to flex along the yaw axis and the roll axis.
- 1 9. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 8 wherein further comprising, mounted over  
2 the opposing connector ends, a plate that is secured to one of either the first body seg-  
3 ment or the second body segment that moves freely with respect to an adjoining one of  
4 the first body segment or the second body segment.
- 1 10. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 8 wherein the flexible connector includes, on  
2 at least one of the connector ends, raised surfaces constructed and arranged to removably  
3 engage detents within the conforming connector slot.
- 1 11. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of the first body segment and  
2 the second body segment respectively comprise a front segment and a central segment,  
3 and further comprising a rear segment interconnected to the central segment by another  
4 flexible connector.

1 12. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 11 wherein the sled defines the shape of an  
2 animal, and wherein the front segment defines a head, the central segment defines a cen-  
3 tral body portion, and the rear segment defines a tail portion of the animal.

1 13. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 12 wherein the rear segment includes a tail  
2 having a rattle therein.

1 14. (Currently amended) An articulated sled comprising:  
2 | a first body segment and a second body segment, each of the first body segment  
3 and the second body segment being removably interconnected by a connector having op-  
4 posing connector ends that each attach to a connector location on each of the first seg-  
5 ment and the second segment and wherein the flexible connector further includes, be-  
6 tween the connector ends, a web constructed and arranged to enable the connector to ro-  
7 tate in at least two perpendicular axes, the web having a length and each connector loca-  
8 tion being positioned with a respect to an adjacent edge of the first body segment and the  
9 second body segment so as to define a gap in which at least a portion of the web is ex-  
10 posed in the gap to flex in the at least two perpendicular axes, the axes including a roll  
11 axis and a yaw axis.

1 15. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 14 wherein each of the first body segment  
2 and the second body segment includes a pair of runners and wherein each of the runners  
3 includes opposing convex edges that define a bottom sliding surface of the runner.

1 16. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 15 wherein the bottom sliding surface of  
2 each of the runners includes a metal edge member.

1 17. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 14 wherein the flexible connector includes at  
2 least one connector end constructed and arranged to be detachable at least one of the first  
3 body segment and the second body segment.

1 18. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 17 wherein at least one connector end of the  
2 opposing connector ends is constructed and arranged to slidably engage a connector slot  
3 in at least one of the first body segment and the second body segment.

1 19. (Original) The sled as set forth in claim 18 wherein the connector end and the con-  
2 nector slot each include a portion of an interengaging locking mechanism that locks when  
3 the connector end is seated at a desired position within the connector slot.